Space Research Organisation (ISRO), through Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C3)-the sixth launch of PSLV, has injected into precise orbit, the Indian Technology Experiment Satellite (TES) as well as two small satellites of international customers. This launch has once again demonstrated ISRO's capability to launch multiple satellites into orbit.

(b) so far, ISRO has launched four micro satellites for international customers. Enquiries have been recieved from Europe, far and Middle Eastern countires for the launching of micro satellites.

(c) and (d) PSLV continuation Programme including PSLV-C3 is part of a long-range plan approved by Government. The required funds for the Department for the envisaged programmes have been provided in the five-year plans and annual budgets.

Space Shuttle

1963. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is far behind in the field of exploration of space in comparision to other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any plan to launch space shuttle in the space; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been successful in developing world class satellites and launch vehicles/ rockets and utilising space systems in areas relevant to national development in a cost-effective manner.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No; Sir. Government have no plans to launch a space shuttle.